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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELA0, OECD

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON COMMUNIQUE FOR LABOR MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: OECD PARIS 02833

1. THE COMMENTS WHICH FOLLOW ARE A FIRST REACTION TO THE PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE FOR THE LABOR MINISTERIAL MEETING TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL.

2. WE WOULD NATURALLY EXPECT THAT FINAL DRAFT OF COMMUNIQUE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED UNTIL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FINAL DAY OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THAT THE PREPARA-
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TION OF THESE EARLY DRAFTS IS PRIMARILY A TIME-SAVING

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DEVICE.

3. PARAGRAPH 1A - THE WORD "CRITICAL" MAY BE TOO STRONG WOULD PREFER "SERIOUS".

4. PARAGRAPH 1B -

---.A. WE COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT EITHER OF THE BRACKETED PHRASES BUT TO AVOID CONFLICT OVER THIS ISSUE WE SUGGEST THE EXACT U.S. COMPROMISE PHRASE AGREED TO IN THE RECOM-

MENDATION BE USED. THE FIRST PART OF THE SENTENCE WOULD THEN READ "MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO FULL EMPLOYMENT AS A GOAL OF POLICY".

----B. WHATEVER PHRASE IS USED IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE TWO CONDITIONS AGREED TO IN REACHING A COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE IN DRAFTING THE RECOMMENDATION BE ADHERED TO IN THE COMMUNIQUE:

----1) - NO ATTEMPT BE MADE TO DEFINE "FULL EMPLOYMENT"

----2) - NO QUALIFICATION BE ADDED WHICH IMPLIES A TIME LIMIT(SHORT OR LONG) FOR ACHIEVING FULL EMPLOYMENT.

5. PARAGRAPH 1D - IT MAY BE THAT THE FIRST PART OF THIS SENTENCE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A CALL FOR MORE RAPID REFLATION OF THE ECONOMIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES (ALTHOUGH WE DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS INTENDED). WE WOULD SUGGEST THE FIRST TWO AND ONE HALF LINES BE REPHRASED TO MORE CLEARLY MAKE THE POINT THAT THE PRINCIPAL WEAPON IN FIGHTING UN-EMPLOYMENT IS MACRO ECONOMIC POLICY WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO TIMING. AS IT STANDS, THE PARAGRAPH PUTS EXCESSIVE EMPHASIS ON THE RELATIVE ROLE OF MANPOWER PROGRAMS.

6. PARAGRAPH 1E -

-------THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE COMPROMISE REACHED IN THE SECTION OF THE RECOMMENDATION DEALING WITH "POSITIVE" SELECTIVE MEASURES TO STIMULATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPLOYMENT. THE BOTTOM LINE OF THIS COMPROMISE IS THAT THE POTENTIAL OF SUCH MEASURES SHOULD BE EXPLORED AND, "TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO BE FEASIBLE," THEY SHOULD BE EXPLOITED.

----IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE PARAGRAPH BE REWORDED AS FOLLOWS:

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----"IN DEVELOPING FUTURE PROGRAMS, MINISTERS AGREED THAT, INSOFAR AS PRACTICABLE, MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD CONSIDER MORE DIRECT MEASURES TO FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT ALTHOUGH THE GREAT VALUE OF POLICIES SUCH AS INCOME MAINTENANCE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED IS RECOGNIZED.THIS IMPLIES THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE FEASABILITY OF MORE RESOURCES FOR ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES TO PURE INCOME MAINTENANCE. THEY STRESSED IN PARTICULAR THAT MANPOWER TRAINING COULD HELP THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED AND NE' ENTRANTS TO THE LABOR MARKET TO ACQUIRE SKILLS NEEDED TO ENTER EXPANDING SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

TEMPORARY INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES OR PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE THE EEFECT OF DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SUBSIDIZING PAYROLL COSTS ARE MEASURES MEMBER COUNTRIES COULD CONSIDER AND TEST FOR FEASABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN STIMULATING EMPLOYMENT. OTHER POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS AND INCREASED EXPENDITURES ON PUBLIC WORKS. IN ANY POLICY TO ASSIST THE UNEMPLOYED, MINISTERS STRESSED THE NEED FOR SPECIAL ACTION TO ENSURE THE DISADVANTAGED GROUPS GET THEIR FAIR SHARE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

7. PARAGRAPH F -

----A. THIS PARAGRAPH AND THE NEXT GO FARTHER THAN AGREED ON SOME SOCIAL POLICY ISSUES. WE COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT THIS PARAGRAPH IF THE PHRASE "TO AVOID RENEWED INFLATION" IS ADDED TO LINE 3; THE WORDS "TO ENSURE" ARE DELETED FROM LINE 6 AND THE WORDS "AND TO ALTER THE BALANCE BETWEEN WORK, EDUCATION AND LEISURE" ARE STRIKEN FROM LINES 8 AND 9.

----B. WE WOULD ALSO DELETE THE BRACKETED LANGUAGE SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT IMPLIES THESE GROUPS HAVE A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN MINORITY GROUPS, THE AGED, ETC.

8. PARAGRAPH 1G -

----A. LINE 2 SHOULD READ "... A NEED TO CONSIDER POLICIES ..."

----B. DELETE THE WORD "RECURRENT" FROM THE THIRD LINE

----C. ADD THE WORD "FURTHER" TO THE FOURTH LINE BEFORE THE WORD "DEVELOP"

----D. DELETE THE PHRASE AT THE END OF THE PARAGRHH BEGINNING

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----WITH "THE FLEXIBILITY OF...".

9. PARAGRAPH H - A SENTENCE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES -HOULD BE ADDED: "THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE NATURE AND SCALE OF MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO VARY SUBSTANTIALLY AMONG COUNTRIES, SINCE THE INSTITUTIONAL SETTING AND APPROACH TO THE ROLE OF GOVERN-MENT VARIES WIDELY".

10. PARAGRAPG1- PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

---- THE MINISTERS REQUESTED THAT THE OECD SHOULD ASSIST MEMBER COUNTRIES IN MONITORING EMPLOYMENT TRENDS AND POOL INFORMATION ON POLICIES TAKEN TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT."

11. PARAGRAPH 1K - THE RECOMMENDATION DOES NOT DIRECTLY RELATE THE NEED FOR TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS IS IMPLIED HERE. IT IS SUGGESTED THIS PARAGRAPH BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS:

----"MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES MAY HAVE AN IMPORT-ANT ROLE TO PLAIN ENABLING OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE THE TREND TOWARD FREER INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVESTMENT. WORKERS IN INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY INTER-NATIONAL TRADE SHOULD BE ASSISTED IN ADAPTING TO STRUCT-URAL CHANGES WHICH RESULT FROM CHANGING PATTERNS OF TRADE."

12. PARAGRAPH L - ADD AT THE END "...WITH APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION FOR WORKERS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS." INGERSOLL

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